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## NOTES.

ON Saturday morning, the Boston *Advertiser* remarked that it was the happiest day of the month, if not of the whole year. The President seemed certain of recovery, the Senatorial dispute in New York had terminated happily; the health of the country was generally good, the crops fair, and business prosperous. But before noon the country was plunged once more into anxiety with regard to the President. Unfavorable symptoms had set in, one of the worst being the chill and subsequent fever which surgeons have learned to regard as ominous in gunshot wounds. It did not take long for a depression as marked as the previous exhilaration of hope to settle over the minds of the American people. All the anxiety and excitement of the first days seemed to be renewed, and a fear to which men dared not give utterance was groping about their hearts. Happily, the bad symptoms have yielded to the prompt treatment which the case received from the attending physicians and from Drs. HAMILTON and AGNEW. The public has been convinced by this sudden alarm that its confidence has been excessive, and that Mr. GARFIELD is in truth a very sick man,—unable to lift his head, unable to take nourishment enough to replace the waste of the tissues, and worn in body as well as mind by long confinement and severe suffering. Such a case as his is not to be regarded out of danger until many weeks have passed; and it will be far on in August, and perhaps in September, before we can be quite confident of his recovery. In the meantime, nothing is effected by abuse of the attending physicians. The members of their profession seem to feel that they are both able and faithful to their trust; and, in so far as newspaper abuse may reach them, it can have no effect except to unfit them for their work.

It is announced with authority that Mr. JAMES and his chief subordinate have been planning additions to the facilities which the Post-Office now offers to those who desire to transmit money through the mail. The system of post-office orders is to be changed, if Congress will consent, by lowering the charge for money orders, and by raising from fifty to one hundred dollars the maximum sum for which an order can be had. At present, the charge is ten cents for fifteen dollars or any smaller sum; Mr. JAMES proposes a tariff of five, eight, eleven cents, and so on, up to forty-five cents for eighty dollars or upwards. We do not see why the Government should make a higher charge for a larger sum, except in so far as its payment at offices where little business is done may cause inconvenience. The trouble of making out and sending an order for five dollars is just as great as in the case of one for one hundred dollars, as there is no risk in either case, and it is for the trouble that the public should be required to pay, at least for money orders payable at large offices. Besides this, Mr. MACDONALD proposes a substitute for the fractional currency which was so useful in making payments by mail. It is a postal order payable on demand at any office within three months after issue, and for any amount less than five dollars. The amount is designated by punching out three figures in three parallel rows, and the document completed by the signature of the postmaster and the date of issue. Those who purchase these orders, which will be sold for a few cents in addition to their amount, will have to take the risk of sending them by letter, and, if stolen, lost or destroyed, they will not be replaceable. Here also, but for no good reason that we can see, it is proposed to charge twice as much for a five dollar order of this kind, as for one of half that amount.

THE prize offered by the Military Service Institution for the best essay on the Indian Question by an officer of the army, has led to the publication of three essays, that by Gen. GIBBONS having received the prize. The most notable fact about the essays is that their authors differ so widely. They are not even agreed as to the propriety of transferring these wards of the nation to the care of the army. Gen. GIBBONS takes rather a roseate view of the race's character. He thinks the Indian was not unlike Mr. COOPER's delineation before the white man corrupted him and made him treacherous. He points to the Iroquois Confederacy as showing the wonderful powers of political organization they possess, and asserts that, if the white man had not interfered, that confederacy would have become masters of the continent. If Gen. GIBBONS will read once more the story of the merciless extermination of the Hurons by their kinsmen, the Iroquois, he will find

reason to doubt his notion that the white man taught the Indian all the bad he knows. And, if he will look into MAINE'S "Ancient Law," he will find reasons for a less lofty estimate of a political organization based on kinship, and not on proximity within a common territory. The truth is, that the Iroquois destroyed both themselves and their red neighbors by their bloody wars, and thus prepared the field for the whites to occupy. And, since the white men grew strong enough to prevent or check such wars between the Indians, the red race has increased in numbers, instead of "vanishing," as Gen. GIBBONS supposes. The most valuable thing in his essay is the suggestion that stock-raising would furnish the natural transition from their wild life to that of the farmer. This is exactly in the line of the social development of every country except Japan, which never had a shepherd stage in its history.

THE excellent law which Senator THURMAN drafted and carried through Congress, to define the relations of the Government to the Pacific Railroads, provides that one-fourth of their net earnings shall be paid into the national treasury in liquidation of the debt they owe the Government. There has been some doubt whether the Central Pacific Company have been complying with the requirements of this law. Mr. FRENCH, the Government commissioner, recently began an investigation of the subject, and was so well pleased that he hastened to express his satisfaction to the president of the road before reporting to his official superior. For this he was removed from office by Mr. GARFIELD. It now appears that among the sums deducted from the gross earnings of the road in estimating the net earnings, is a quarter million dollars yearly for the maintenance of a "lobby" in Washington. The head of the lobby gets ten thousand a year, and its lesser lights are paid with proportional liberality. It will be for the next Congress to ascertain what exactly are the services which justify the large outlay, and whether Mr. FRENCH has been in any way benefited by it. As it is hardly probable that this large expenditure will be regarded as legitimate, the Treasury will expect to be reimbursed to the amount of one-fourth the sums employed to influence the action of other departments of the Government.

THE New York Legislature, before adjourning, had the pleasure of listening to several sensible and excellent vetoes of the bills it had passed. It also voted to send down to the people a Constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of all tolls on the State's canals. These canals have played a very important part in the elevation of New York City to its present commercial eminence. They have given it an advantage possessed by no other city on the Atlantic seaboard; and even the recent development of transportation by rail, while diminishing, has not destroyed, their importance. But they are now threatened by the completion of the canal system of Canada. Sea-going ships of small size will soon be able to start from the wharves of Chicago, Milwaukee and Detroit, and to reach those of Liverpool or Antwerp without a single interruption or change of cargo. Hence the anxiety felt as to the future, not only of the canal, but of New York City, as a depot of the grain trade. Of course, the representatives of the railroads will resist the proposal, as unfairly interfering with their business. And the people of those parts of the State which lie at a distance from the canal, will object to being taxed for the benefit of the rest. Yet it is far from impossible that the amendment will be adopted.

THE Temperance people in Ohio have held a convention and nominated a State ticket in order "to chastise the Republicans." We fail to see the necessity for such chastisement at the present time. This third party can harm the Republicans only by enabling the Democrats to elect Mr. BOOKWALTER Governor of the State. The Democratic ticket declares for license, and as much personal freedom in the matter of drink as is consistent with public order. They evidently are bidding for the support of the German Republicans. On the other hand, the Republicans propose to submit the questions of Prohibition and Local Option to the vote of the people of the State, in the form of a Constitutional amendment. Gov. FOSTER takes the ground that neither of these measures is Constitutional at present. Formerly there was a Local Option Law. The Democrats, by just such help as the Temperance people now are giving them, got into power and repealed it. Because the Republicans have refused to re-enact either measure until the

Constitution has been amended and the vote of the people taken, they are to be "chastised." Not all those who have been classed as Temperance men are taking part in the movement. It is to be hoped that others outside the State will not hesitate to express their opinion of it. Small parties tend constantly to get into a huffy or irritable condition, and to lose their heads. An expression of opinion from such men as Gov. ST. JOHN, of Kansas, might help in this case to a sounder mind.

A RECENT instance brings into prominence the service which charity organization can render, not only to the community immediately interested, but to the country at large. A family in this city, who make their living by begging-letters and similar means, tried to practice on the susceptibilities of Mr. EMERSON and Dr. HOLMES. These gentlemen, however, forwarded the letters to the Philadelphia Society, and received prompt assurance that the applicants had no claim on their charity. This is but a more public instance of what is happening every day in this city, and people of this class are certain to be forced to betake themselves to some honest mode of life, if the public will only do the Society the favor of referring all such applications to it. One such, a stone mason in an uptown ward, was thus referred, at least a score of times, to the ward organization by people whose souls had been harrowed by the tale of his family's sufferings. All the while the rogue was living in ample comfort on the best the markets could furnish him. Already Philadelphia takes the lead of all other American cities in this matter, its society having nine thousand members and including the greater part of the best and most charitable people in the city. The criticisms on its management come to us chiefly from New York,—the city which wastes more money in pauperizing and ruining human beings than any other in America. One specimen of New York charity was the annual distribution of \$20,000 among some five hundred blind people, last Friday, each receiving a pittance just sufficient to ruin his self-respect, but not sufficient to do him any real service. Nor need New York wonder that her blind dependants grow at the rate of nearly a hundred a year, while she permits this useless outlay upon them.

NEXT to the Irish Land Law, the chief topic of interest in England is the agitation for a policy of retaliation on Protectionist countries. The Cobden Club omitted its annual dinner this year, not caring to be twitted publicly again with success in converting the world to Free Trade; but a committee of the Club has had the subject of this new agitation before it, and recognizes the danger that "Fair Trade, not Free Trade," may become the rallying cry of the Tories. Instead of adopting a policy which would contradict all the professions England has made of attachment to Free Trade, they want her to continue her Micawber-like policy of expectation. "They doubt," as Mr. SMALLEY telegraphs to *The Tribune*, "whether a country with such education and independence as the United States, can long continue without modification of a tariff which retards the advancement of international commerce." This expression of their opinion repeats their usual and insolent assumption that education and Free Trade have some special affinity, while Protection and ignorance are of kin. They should not forget that Mr. GARFIELD, for whom they expressed their sympathy, is a Protectionist, although he exhibited such a special intelligence of difficult financial questions as to lead them to offer him honorary membership in this club. A little intelligence may make a man a Free Trader or a Free Thinker. A larger measure of it will carry him in the opposite direction. As for modifying our tariff, that we hope will come soon enough. But there will be no modification of it in contravention of that protective policy which tends to the advancement of national commerce and the interchange of services between different classes and sections of our country. That commerce is of tenfold greater importance to us than any international commerce can be.

THE sending of nitro-glycerine cartridges in cement barrels to Liverpool, is a trick so stupid that even Mr. O'DONOVAN ROSSA refuses to claim the credit of it. There is but one opinion among the better class of Irish citizens in America, with regard to this and similar proceedings of recent date. The most decided nationalists,—men who are ready to stake their lives for the liberation of Ireland from English rule,—would rejoice to see their authors detected and punished. They are glad that these criminals have brought themselves within the reach of American law by shipping such explosives in a passenger vessel. The English papers talk of the mischief as done by the Fenians. Once for all, this is pure nonsense. The Fenian Brotherhood never gave its sanction to anything but measures of public warfare. There is no stain of assassination on its record. But it is now an effete society, existing still in some quarters as a sentimental association. What shape the organization for Irish independence has taken, is not known; but it certainly is not that of the Irish Republic of Fenian times.

OUR sympathies are far more strongly with the English ladies who are uniting to promote the home use of English woollens, than with the Cobden Club, who want England to wait until foreigners will take the woollens off her hands. Such leagues have been tried frequently in Ireland for the promotion of English manufactures, and it is not impossible that the Land League will renew the experiment. The earlier Irish leaguers did not meet with much success. The true agency for executing such a popular purpose is the Government of the country; and duties on foreign goods are the natural means. But it is possible that the English ladies will effect something. They mean to resist the fashion which has made French silks more common than the fabrics of Leeds and Bolton. Two princesses of the royal family have consented to be patrons to the movement, and a considerable number of peeresses are engaged in its direction.

THE Tories have been living in hope of a collision between the Boers and the royal authority in the matter of the settlement of the Transvaal which a commissioner is arranging. One London paper even published a telegram from the Cape, declaring that the Boers had rejected the settlement. The wish was father to the thought in this instance. Official advices contradict this report. Some of the articles are still under discussion, but a substantial basis of agreement has been reached. The Boers retain all their territory, not excepting that part which the BEACONSFIELD Government had annexed to Natal. They retain their autonomy, except in the matter of declaring war. Their relations to the natives are to be under British supervision. They are to elect their own rulers, pass their own laws, levy and spend their own taxes, and be in all essential respects a self-governing country.

It is not only England and Italy that France has alienated within the last few months. In Eastern Algeria, the scene of the present formidable insurrection consequent upon the seizure of Tunis, there are large settlements of Spanish colonists. To these the French authorities refused permission to carry arms for their own defence. At the same time, they took no sufficient measures to defend them against the uprising of the natives. On two plantations, nearly five hundred Spaniards were killed without their having received so much as notice of their danger; and twenty thousand Spaniards have returned from Algeria to Spain. The bitterness against France is intense throughout Spain, contrasting very sharply with the friendly feeling which existed a few months ago. This is probably the real reason of the show of zeal made by the authorities of the Republic in commanding DON CARLOS to leave France.

It is still uncertain what will be the effect of the intercession of the diplomats of Constantinople in behalf of MIDHAT PASHA. The spiritual court has not yet passed on the legality before the Shariat (or code of traditions,) of the sentence passed on the assassins of ABD-UL-AZIZ. If MIDHAT had been less known in Western Europe, there would have been no intervention. But his long residence in Paris, and his association with French statesmen of the Opportunist school in Bourse speculations, have given him an exceptional influence. He is a man of no character and no beliefs. He has no real attachment to his native country, and his posing at one time as a Turkish patriot and at another as an enlightened reformer, has been for European effect only.

#### THE GAINS AT ALBANY.

MR. CONKLING retires to private life and the practice of his profession. We shall turn over the morning papers no longer in quest of the returns from Albany. Other topics in our politics will take the place thus vacated, and we shall forget, in some measure, the noise and the confusion of this summer election of a Senator. It is time to ask, "What has been gained by so much effort and excitement? How much is the nation the better for this outlay of force?"

We cannot count the personal expulsion of Mr. ROSCOE CONKLING from the field of national politics the gain which repays it all. We have no feelings toward Mr. CONKLING which can prompt us to such an estimate of the event which unseats him. If we had, we should be ashamed to give them utterance in the hour of his defeat. Mr. CONKLING is a man of ability, of patriotic feeling, of sound views on nearly all the great issues of our national politics. It is quite true that his flatterers have infused into his mind an exaggerated estimate of what he is, and what he has done for his party. It is true that he has lost the power to discern the just measure of his personal importance, and has come to regard himself as the centre of our political existence. Yet these grave faults cannot blind us to the fact that the Republican party can point to few abler exponents of its principles. Our thoughts recur,



as we write, to speeches of his which were heard or read with delight by all the members of the party, as putting its case before the country in a manner which must command attention and assent. No; Mr. CONKLING is not the evil principle,—nor is he even the evil genius of our politics,—that we should court deliverance from him as victory worthy of our acclamations. It is only in so far as the ex-Senator has identified his name and influence with political methods which are injurious to the natural welfare, that his defeat becomes a matter of national congratulation.

The first point in the victory is that an unworthy system of personal government has received a just rebuke. The instinct of personal loyalty is one which can hardly be eliminated from politics. "Vote for measures, not men," is the underlying principle of the English Whig party, and has been adopted by both the great parties into which it divided in America at the Revolution. But it is an ideal which is incapable of realization. The old Teutonic instinct of loyalty to leaders has remained a governing power in both countries; and even our Democrats find the names of JEFFERSON, MADISON and JACKSON more powerful spells for their conjury than "the Resolutions of '98." The supreme danger to a republic arises from an excess of this natural feeling—from the exaltation of some leader or candidate into such eminence that men shall be ready for his sake to set aside the traditions of the Government, to ignore its principles, and even to overthrow its institutions. We are still far from such excesses; but what has been called the "boss" system is our nearest approach to it. The "boss" is a perpetual leader who no longer depends upon the spontaneous and natural enthusiasm of the party behind him. He lives, not by eliciting feeling and opinion in his favor, but by suppressing whatever is hostile to him. He makes a false public opinion in order to defeat the true. He organizes his control of his party. He fastens his influence upon this and that instrument of his will by personal benefits. He makes political subservience the condition upon which men shall continue to enjoy their means of living. He gathers around himself a class of partisans who command no public confidence, but make up for their moral inferiority by their diligence and their activity.

Of this system, Mr. CONKLING has been the most eminent representative since the retirement of Mr. SIMON CAMERON from an active part in politics. It was in reliance upon the efficiency of the system that he resigned and went back to his own State for vindication. Not four months had passed since the Legislature to which he appealed had been entirely under his control. Even his defeat at Chicago had not destroyed his influence. Between two candidates for the Senatorship of his own way of thinking, he had only to pronounce the word, and Mr. PLATT was taken and Mr. CROWLEY left. But between January and May,—between Mr. PLATT's election and Mr. CONKLING's resignation,—a great deal more had happened than Mr. CONKLING was aware of. The bubble of "boss" management had been pricked at Harrisburg. A great Commonwealth had overthrown a system of machine government whose foundations had been laid with far more skill than Mr. CONKLING possesses, and long before his name was heard in the field of our politics. What Mr. CAMERON could not save, it was far beyond Mr. CONKLING's power to retrieve. His dependants, it is true, rallied to his support, but only to find themselves in a minority, and to be beaten, inch by inch, from one position after another, until they surrendered at discretion.

A second point in the victory at Albany is the gain for the enemies of the bad traditions which make "boss" rule possible. Mr. CONKLING has figured before the country for years as the opponent of Civil Service Reform, and the patron of the Spoils System which the Republican inherited from the Democratic party. For everything that calls itself Civil Service Reform, he has expressed publicly his unqualified contempt. The Texan delegate at Chicago, who did not know what the party was to fight for, if not for the offices, must have had Mr. CONKLING's hearty sympathy in his mingled astonishment and disgust with the mild Civil Service Reform "plank" offered by a New England delegate. But the ambition of an American "boss" takes a higher flight. He not only wants the offices as the spoils of partisan victory; he wants the incumbents of those offices as the dependants on the good pleasure of party leaders. Far more than in the question how the offices shall be filled, he is interested in the question how they shall be emptied.

Give him the most unobjectionable set of clerks that ever passed a competitive examination, and leave them subject to arbitrary removal, either at once or after a brief term of years, and he will manage to sift out all who will not bend to his will, and to convert the remnant into a machine obedient to his order and zealous for his success. There will be a conflict for existence and a survival of the fittest for his purposes. Hence, Mr. CONKLING's especial bitterness against the proposal to restore that permanence in the tenure of office which existed from the time of WASHINGTON until that of JACKSON. He has the keenness to see that here, and not in the mode of appointment, lies the key to the situation; and he denounces such a civil service as the country had through the first ten Administrations, as an un-American, bureaucratic aristocracy.

The struggle between Mr. CONKLING and the Administration has not been one between the enemies and the advocates of Civil Service Reform. His defeat cannot be ascribed to his hostility to that measure. But it will be one of the contributing elements which shall serve to promote the Reform, by discrediting ideas and maxims with which Mr. CONKLING has associated his name. The danger of the present is that the Reform may be placed on an unsatisfactory footing, and its main object lost sight of. It is not designed principally to secure a more honest administration of the Government, nor—as Mr. DAWES seems to think,—to relieve Congress and the Executive Department of the pressure of applications. It is to divest the office-holder of his character as *citoyen actif* in the sense in which M. TAINE explains that phrase in his "History of the French Revolution." It is to enable a free and untrammelled expression of public opinion in nominations and in elections, by putting the office-holder on the same footing as any other citizen. And for this purpose we need, first of all, a tenure of office *ad vitam aut culpam*, the *culpa* being ascertainable by a Government commission, covering insubordination to superiors and insolence to the public.

#### TYPES OF WASHINGTON CHARACTER. IV.

##### SOCIAL LIFE IN WASHINGTON.

THERE is much unique social life in Washington, as well as much that is elegant, and much more that is a hollow sham. The city is like no other place in the country. There is more out-of-door life and more lounging there than anywhere else. With the exception of New York, it is the only American city whose people promenade. "The Avenue," on a pleasant afternoon, is the resort of everyone, and it is next to impossible to resist the influence of the place. One finds one's self unable to walk from the Capitol to the Treasury Department with the determination and purpose which characterize the steps of one intent upon business. Every one is out, and it is an idle, chatty, miscellaneous crowd of pleasure-seekers who come out to be admired and to admire. The walk from the Capitol in the afternoon becomes a saunter. It is a rare day for January which is too cold or disagreeable for a promenade in that most beautiful of climates, where, as the historian Bancroft is reported to have said, one finds more pleasant days the whole year round than in any city of the country. All classes are out, for all classes in Washington are in society of some sort. They are a social set of people, from the dignitaries to the humblest civic and military officials.

One will see on a bright afternoon a carriage drawn by a pair of fine bays. On the box are two aristocratic negroes; inside is the aristocratic owner,—an old lady with the traces of youthful beauty still about her. She represents what thinks itself at the very topmost round of the social ladder, the old Washington and Georgetown society, mainly composed of the descendants of old Virginia and Maryland families. This society has not recognized official people here since Buchanan went out. In its place have come new people from the North and East; on the whole not so pleasant, and certainly not so amusing. Once in every five years, this old lady throws open her mansion and gives a formal reception. No one is invited in whom any of the present generation has any interest, or who has any interest in it. To be concerned about the affairs of to-day would be voted vulgar by this old society, and the person guilty of any such bad taste would be excluded. There are very few youthful persons at their receptions, for the younger members of the oldest families have found it to their profit to court the people who are in power. Grave old men who were dandies in Jackson's days, and very old ladies who recollect "Dolly" Madison, sit around the old rooms, which are astonished, probably, at the admission of air and sunshine into their dusty old precincts, and at the intrusion of men and women who used to come there often enough in their younger days, but who might easily have been ghosts many years ago. They have the courtly elegance of an older day, and to listen to them one would think one's self in a by-gone age. No subject of contemporaneous

interest is talked about, for no one of the guests knows anything about such things, or, if he does, discreetly conceals the vulgar knowledge from the company present. These were all "rebels" during the war, and they suffered much in consequence. Many of them lost their property by the emancipation of the slaves, and many more found themselves in straitened circumstances. They hate the war and all who made it; so that it is very rarely that any of those who were on the side of the North find themselves within the charmed circle. Occasionally, the daughter of the demi-god of the rebellion, General Lee, goes to Washington, and then the old people who made society there very charming in their younger days have a social celebrity, and break out in sporadic entertainments in her honor. It is not a cultivated society in any respect, but there is much that is charming about it. The old people are full of reminiscence. They never go to the White House now; but when Miss Harriet Lane presided there they made it their fashionable centre, a thing it has not been since her day. There is one good feature about this set of people. While their dislike of the present and their affectation of ignorance of what is going on about them is very funny, it is a purely American society. There is none of the vulgar worship of the foreigner which one sees among the really fashionable society of the place. A foreign diplomat is received according to his rank, but there is no self-abasement before him. These people, who devoted their lives to building up a good society in Washington, are very self-respecting, and meet their titled guests with a dignity equal to that of the wearers of coronets. They had nothing to ask of the latter in the days when they were young, and they certainly have nothing to ask now that they are old. It is a dreary society sometimes, because of the utter contempt in which it holds the people who are living about them, and the supreme importance which is given to the most trifling and minute concerns of members of their own circle; but it may grow to be very interesting if one has the patience to probe it deeply enough.

There is another circle which sets itself up as the best society of the capital. It is the official society. In some respects, the claim is a good one. It is at least the most important society of the place, and that into which there is the most struggle to enter. It cannot help but be miscellaneous, and, for the best society, it may be even said to be mixed. No other "best society" in the country could tolerate many of the people whose official rank makes them nominal leaders in Washington society. There are to be found here, of course, some of the most brilliant men of the country, but not many brilliant women. In this respect, society will be improved by the influx of wealthy people who are coming more and more to make the Federal capital a winter resort. These new people, who are not official, but who mingle in official society, are going into Washington in great numbers, and are beautifying the place by the erection of elegant houses. They are, as a rule, wealthy and cultivated people of the North, representatives of the best elements of Boston, New York and Philadelphia. They are precisely what was needed to give the tone and color to society which can be given only by bright and cultivated women. They are taking the places of the old-fashioned Washingtonians. They are, on the whole, better than their predecessors, for they are better educated and of a more catholic spirit. They are sounder and healthier in every way.

Washington official society is worthy of study. It has an etiquette of its own, and this is essential where the question of social precedence depends upon rank, the differences of rank not being very clearly defined. There are many vexed questions still agitating the minds and hearts of "official ladies," as they are called. Shall the Chief Justice call first on the Vice-President, or shall the Speaker have precedence of the Cabinet, or the Cabinet of the Senators? A lady recently promoted from the Senatorial to the Cabinet circle has offended many of her old colleagues by sending them cards for a reception without having first called upon them. They take the ground that the Senators helped appoint her husband, and that therefore he is their creature and beneath them in rank; to which she replies: "Well, then, the legislators who elected your husbands Senators have precedence over you, and the voters over them." There is no immediate prospect of the settlement of this question, certainly not until there shall be found some other social dispute over which feminine hearts can ache.

Society at the capital tries to divide itself up into sets; but political necessities demand too much, and the different sets lap over each other and mingle in a way that makes all society very promiscuous. The White House has for some years ceased to exert potent influence. The Hayes family were not society people, although Mrs. Hayes developed a wonderful amount of social tact and good sense. Her total abstinence principles, however, undoubtedly kept many from the White House who might otherwise have gone there, because they resented, or said they did, the interference with the customs of good society everywhere. The cream of official society is supposed to be that of the Supreme Court. It certainly ought to be, because the court is, in theory at least, composed of men of exceptional professional acquirements and ability. None but leading lawyers enter it, and not all Senators are welcome, while it is very seldom that the House of Representatives has a member who has position enough to be a guest at the state dinners of the Justices.

It is here, however, that the great lack of Washington society is felt in all its force. The successful public man of this country has, very likely,

outgrown his wife. He married her when they were on the same plane. Perhaps she was a little better off in money and position; but he has gone on growing, and she has stood still. While he has been hard at work making fame and a place for himself, she has been attending to the domestic economies. These have been useful to her husband, but they have stunted her, and so she finds herself, when in the full glare of the official society of the capital, out of place, awkward, constrained, doubtful as to what is proper and what is improper. There are many women whose natural tact carries them over this difficulty, and they are soon able to make a showing in society which is very creditable to them; but it nevertheless remains the fact that the society of Washington is largely colored by the men, and that the women, not having grown with their husbands, bring them their village manners and their village timidity. One who has lived in Washington can recall more than one wife of a Justice of the Supreme Court, uneducated, unrefined, and thoroughly unfitted for any life but the boisterous one of the West. This is more often true, however, of the wives of men who have advanced in political life than of those who have risen professionally. This gives Washington society the coarse tone which is the oftenest noticed by newspaper writers, but it is not just to say, because its characteristic is the presence of a much larger number of brilliant men than of brilliant or even refined women, that Washington society is wholly coarse. There is much in it that is better than can be found in any society in the country. There are certainly more interesting men, and there are very many charming women. Its deficiencies will exist as long as the country is so largely unsettled. The most of those who live there officially come from the parts of the country into which the refinements of cities have not gone, and life in Washington, composed as it is of people from all sections of the Union, will always be a reflex of the country. Western people will come from the West, Eastern and Southern people from the East and South. Those who have spent their lives in villages—and many of the ablest public men have,—will bring the manners of village life with them. When it is a woman, it is unfortunate. It is different with the man, whose lack of polish can be replaced by vigor of mind.

Politics in this country brings so many changes to men that there are always turning up in Washington, in high office, those who have never before approached greatness. There are no busier and more fruitful breeders of vulgarity than such people. Their contact with men whom they have read about, and whose names are in everybody's mouth, simply whets their appetites. They are the people whose constant talk is of their great acquaintances, and they are those who furnish the delicious scandals for a gossip-loving world. They throw themselves at the feet of the foreign legations. They follow around impecunious and brainless young secretaries of legation whose heads are turned by the unaccustomed flattery, and who thereby become probably the most disagreeable class of persons in the world to transact business with. As a rule, it is not a very good class of people sent by foreign Governments to Washington. In the first place, the diplomats do not like to come to this country, for it breaks up the mode of life to which they have been accustomed, and those of the higher ranks cannot come because no ambassadors are accredited to this country; but nevertheless they are foreigners, and many of them have titles of nobility. The fact that some of them would not be tolerated in a gentleman's house if they were Americans, makes no difference. The young and the old women of society worship them, and give the objects of their admiration splendid opportunities for the exercise of their talent for ridicule, which they do not hesitate to embrace. There is no person in the world more capable of ingratitude than a cheap secretary of a cheap foreign legation.

When the higher official circles of the capital are left, there is a miscellaneous assortment of underlings, some of whom have admission to the larger and more public entertainments of the superior officers. They imitate the splendors of these, and make up as pretentious and hollow a society as exists anywhere in the country. Being more or less connected with official life, they assume that a lack of means is replaced by culture; but there is no culture, and no simplicity, no modesty,—nothing but a wretched sham, into which much that is very vicious enters. It is largely a boarding-house society, and is made up of members of the lower House of Congress, some respectable and worthy women employees of the Departments, and then of women lobbyists and a host of shady characters who abound in Washington, and who will be pointed out any day on the Avenue by any one who is familiar with Washington and Washington characters. Much of this society gives the tone to Washington in the outside world, for the newspapers chronicle its doings with much more of detail than they do the movements of the best people. The efforts of vulgar people to live better than they can afford, and to appear to be leaders in a society they cannot even enter, are faithfully put down in the Washington Sunday newspapers, and the world thinks that that is the society of the Federal capital. It is not true; for the best of society of Washington is, in some respects, the best in the country. It has one advantage, at least, that no other society has—its men are mostly men of brains, and it is not a commercial society, carrying trade into the drawing room, or selling stocks at the dinner-table.



## LITERATURE.

## THE POEMS OF AN ÆSTHETE.

READERS of *Punch* have for some months past been amused by Mr. Dumaaurier's clever pictures of the "utter" and "too too" "æsthetes,"—the sad, long-waisted and angular maidens, and the youths who pass their time in rapturous dalliance with a peacock's feather, or in ecstatic contemplation of a lily. The pen of the writer has joined with the pencil of the artist in criticising and ridiculing Maudle the poet, and Postlethwaite the artist, and the worshippers of Maudle and of Postlethwaite; and they have been presented on the boards both in comedy and in comic opera. To most readers outside of England, these "æsthetes" have doubtless appeared as mere creations of the malicious fancy, or at least extravagant caricatures; but there is a Maudle, and he has not feared to lay before the public a volume of his verses, ("Poems," Oscar Wilde,) than which, perhaps, no contemporary book has had more effective advertising. Before noticing its contents, some words may not be out of place as to the author and as to the treatment which the "utter" folk have received. Mr. Oscar Wilde, who must now be drawing on to his thirtieth year, is the son of the late Sir William Wilde, a well known Dublin oculist, and of his wife, a Miss Elgee, whose verses, over the signature of "Speranza," are familiar to readers of Irish literature. He is very well known in London society. "He let his hair grow very long," says one of his historians, "wore strangely made garments, carried lilies in his hands, and when hooted by urchins in the streets, calmly remarked, 'I am glad to afford amusement to the lower classes.' He gave afternoon tea-parties in his apartments, where the light was rose-colored and subdued almost to darkness; he talked in a 'high-flown' fashion, and his sayings began to be quoted; and then the caricaturists took him up." Now, unlike the average people of his sort, he has written and published a book, the ordinary course being to depreciate every one else's work, and drop mysterious hints of what one could do if it were but worth one's trouble. We cannot say that we believe the "æsthetes" have always been fairly treated. In the matter of eccentricities of dress, it is precisely their severest critics that are severest in their denunciations of the costume of our time, and sigh for the abolition of the chimney-pot hat and a return to bravery of color and boldness of design. We all know to what eccentricities of dress the Romantics lent themselves in France about 1830; yet among the hirsute wearers of scarlet satin waistcoats, and black velvet doublets, and boots of Cordova leather, were Hugo, Gautier, Musset, Balzac, and a score of others. Within our own time, we have seen the pre-Raphaelites ridiculed and scoured; yet Millais and Holman Hunt, Whistler and Burne Jones, have done good work and have left their mark on English art. Swinburne provoked uproarious fun by going, with his footstool under his arm, to sit at the feet of Robert Browning, and by bounding round the dinner-table to bite the (possibly false,) tresses of his beautiful *vis-à-vis*; but Swinburne is already acknowledged one of the greatest masters of English song. At a time when social scandals are so sadly rife in England, it must be regarded as at least a negative advantage to have young folk eschew mischief and materiality, and devote themselves to something concerning the mind. Genius very frequently shows itself by disregard of rules and *convenances*, and human nature is strong and healthy enough to correct of itself such exaggerations and eccentricities as those of our "æsthetes." Finally, indiscriminate ridicule has been carried so unjustly far that it has assailed and endeavored to include in the same category the societies which are doing so much to promote among the laboring classes of England a love of beauty and of art.

But merely because a poet wears his hair long, and appoints himself high priest of a cult of his own contriving, criticism is not to be disarmed when he comes before the world with his contribution to its literature. We have already alluded to the immense increase in the number of verse-writers now-a-days, and the real elevation of the standard of excellence. We have bards literally by the thousands, and we let poetry perish unnoticed in the daily press and the periodicals, which, two or three generations ago, would have been regarded as of decidedly high class. This has its disadvantages, and not the least of these is the tendency to manufacture poetry—to replace feeling by an affectation of eccentricity and a trick of versification easily acquired. Precisely as the Zola-ites of Paris have gone on to invent women with impossible shades of hair and colors of eyes, and men to match,—one hero drinks absinthe until his skull becomes pulpy, and the fingers of his clenched hands enter his brain!—so the Swinburne-ites have "gone in for" alliteration, naughtiness and *bizarrie*. This implies insincerity, and, when a writer is insincere, he is not a poet. We know that in men, and especially in men of genius, there are often found co-existing the most violent contrasts; but, where this is the case, the fact reveals itself. Swinburne ranges from the highest and purest poesy, down almost to purposeless nastiness; yet the reader can feel the poet breathes with delight the difficult air of lofty thought, and that, when he wallows, it is because he must.

We do not find this sincerity in Mr. Wilde's poems; indeed, their very style accuses him. If he follows one model, though he may be narrow, he is quite likely to be earnest. Mr. Wilde has a fashion of drawing now upon Swinburne and anon on Rossetti, here upon Baudelaire and there upon Tennyson, which is puzzling and annoying. His literary ability is so considerable that we cannot understand why he has not sought to express his own thought in his own way. If he were a younger man, and had less social experience, we should fancy that he was deriving inspiration from and offering incense to a whole Olympus of gods, and expect that presently he would select one altar or erect a new one. But Mr. Wilde's character has been formed; and we fear that, while he will be regarded as a pleasing verse-writer, an echo of Swinburne, he will never quite attain to the rank of poet. There seem to be traces of "pay dirt," but the mine is not worked seriously.

It is a pity, too! He has a gift of expression and versification that is often remarkable; and in many passages we find indicated the serene mind and the observing

eye of the true friend of Nature. These will lead us to forgive and forget the audacity that at times degenerates into impudence, and the tricks and mannerism that recall Maudle (as, for instance, in the selection of many of the titles of his poems). Of course, he has political convictions, something after the fashion of Swinburne, and regards himself as a man and a poet somewhat after the fashion of Byron, or, rather, of Byron's imitators. He laments that he is

"To drift with every passion till my soul  
Is a stringed lute on which all winds can play!"

and declares:

"Surely, there was a time I might have trod  
The sun-lit heights, and, from life's dissonance,  
Struck one clear chord, to reach the ear of God.  
Is that time dead? Lo, with a little rod  
I did but touch the honey of romance.  
And must I lose a soul's inheritance?"

For his politics, let us hear him calling on Milton:

"Milton! I think thy spirit hath passed away  
From these white cliffs and high-embattled towers!  
This gorgeous fiery-colored world of ours  
Seems fallen into ashes dull and grey. \* \* \*  
We are but fit to delve the common clay,  
Seeing this little isle on which we stand,  
This England, the great sea-lion of the sea,  
By ignorant demagogues is held in fee!"

Can this, he questions anxiously, be the same England

"Which bore a triple empire in her hand  
When Cromwell spake the word 'Democracy?'"

Granted the decadence and the desirability of the austere restoration, is it to be furthered by such singing as this?

"And her sweet, red lips, on these lips of mine,  
Burned like the ruby fire set  
In the swinging lamp of a crimson shrine,  
Or the bleeding wounds of the pomegranate,  
Or the hurt of the lotus drenched and wet  
With the spilt-out blood of the rose-red wine."

That is Maudle. Let any one read the "Rosa Mystica," and he will find the same thing, *plus* bad taste, for it is decidedly bad taste to treat sacred subjects with what we are inclined to call a carnal mysticism. These latter verses, however, carry their own corrective with them. They do not inspire active resentment. They are tinkling, shallow, artificial. Let the reader compare with them the verses on England's recent wars, and the dead who have fallen therein, which are tender and vigorous, despite an occasional tang of Tennyson. Or, still better, let the comparison, both for thought and style, be made with this:

## SILENTIUM AMORIS.

"As, oftentimes, the too-resplendent sun  
Hurries the pallid and reluctant moon  
Back to her sombre cave ere she hath won  
A single ballad from the nightingale,  
So doth thy beauty make my lips to fail,  
And all my sweetest singing out of tune!"

"And as at dawn, across some level mead,  
On wings impetuous, some wind will come,  
And, with its too harsh kisses, break the reed  
Which was its only instrument of song,  
So my too stormy passions work me wrong,  
And, for excess of love, my love is dumb."

"But surely unto thee my eyes did show  
Why I am silent and my lute unstrung;  
Else it were better we should part, and go,  
Thou to some lips of sweeter melody,  
And I to nurse the barren memory  
Of un-kissed kisses and songs never sung."

These lines show, as well as the poet's excellences, his defects and his intentional defects. We may close our selections with some verses from the "Garden of Eros," which will remind the reader now of Keats, now of Shakespeare, ("The Winter's Tale,") and now of Hood:

"These are the flowers which mourning Herakles  
Strewed on the tomb of Hylas; columbine,  
Its white doves all a-flutter where the breeze  
Kissed them too harshly; the small celandine,  
That yellow-kirtled chorister of eve;  
And lilac lady's-smock,—but let them bloom alone, and leave

"Yon spired holly-hock red-crocketed  
To sway its silent chimes; else must the bee,  
Its little bell-ringer, go seek instead  
Some other pleasance; the anemone  
That weeps at daybreak, like a silly girl  
Before her love, and hardly lets the butterflies unfurl

"Their painted wings beside it—bid it pine  
In pale virginity; the winter snow  
Will suit it better than those lips of thine,  
Whose fires would but scorch it; rather go  
And pluck that amorous flower which blooms alone,  
Fed by the pander wind with dust of kisses not its own."

"The trumpet mouths of red convolvulus  
So dear to maidens; creamy meadow-sweet  
Whiter than Juno's throat and odorous  
As all Arabia; hyacinths the feet  
Of huntress Dian would be loath to mar  
For any dappled fawn—pluck these, and those fond flowers which are

"Fairer than what Queen Venus trod upon  
Beneath the pines of Ida; eucharis,  
That morning star which does not dread the sun,  
And budding marjoram which but to kiss  
Would sweeten Cytherea's lips. \* \* \*

"But that our Narciss which the startled spring  
Let from her kirtle fall when first she heard  
In her own woods the wild tempestuous song of summer's bird,

"Ah! leave it for a subtle memory  
Of those sweet tremulous days of rain and sun  
When April laughed between her tears to see  
The early primrose with shy footsteps run  
From the gnarled oak-tree roots, till all the world,  
Spite of its brown and trampled leaves, grew bright with shimmering gold."

The man who is capable of such work, and of a good deal of such work, does not deserve the unstinted and unintermitted ridicule of the caricaturist and comedy-writer. We could wish, as we have already said, that an indication was afforded that more years would bring the riper song,—that we could find an excuse for the frequent trivialities and intentional faults of taste, faults that must lead in many a case to the exclusion of the book from reader or reviewer. But for the one lily, as Longfellow would say, many thanks, though it blooms in a marsh; and may our English brethren render unto Maude the praise that is honestly due to Maude. Roberts Brothers, Boston, 1881.

### AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

PROPOSALS are about to be issued for the publication by subscription of "A History of the Printing Trade Charities of England," to be compiled by Mr. J. S. Hodson from the records of the various institutions. The work is to include a complete account of the Caxton Celebration, 1877, which was projected in the interests of the Printers' Corporation.

Arrangements have been made with Mr. Murray for the publication of Mr. Whymper's book on his travels amongst the Great Andes of the Equator.

Messrs. Braumüller, of Vienna, are about to publish the last two volumes of the "Letters of the Empress Maria Theresa to her Children and Friends," edited by Count von Arneth, of which vols. i. and ii. have been for some time in the hands of the public. They contain her letters to her daughters, Amelia and Caroline, and her daughter-in-law, Marie Beatrix von Este; her instructions to Counts Batthyany and Thurn, who were entrusted with the education of the Archdukes Joseph and Leopold; letters to Kaunitz and Liechtenstein, &c. A copious index to the entire work is appended.

Mr. Joseph Crawhall is about to publish a new edition, limited to one hundred copies, of the "The Completest Angling Booke that ever was writ." The book was originally published in 1859, and deals with the history, legends, poetry and practice of angling, being enriched by admirable etchings, woodcuts, &c.

Messrs. Hurst and Blackett will shortly publish a new novel by Mrs. Pirakis, author of "A Very Opal," entitled "Wanted, an Heir." A cheap edition of "Strictly Tied Up," by Mr. Beresford Hope, will also be issued by the same firm.

Messrs. Whittaker and Co. have published "Patriots in Arms," a collection of addresses by Sydney Smith, Rowland Hill, and other distinguished preachers of the beginning of the century, eulogizing the volunteer movement. It will contain several fac-simile illustrations from Rowlandson and other artists. Mr. Thomas Preston, ex-lieutenant, R. V., is the editor, and contributes an introduction and historical notes.

The Academy says:—"Mr. Henry Sweet is re-editing from the MS., for the Early-English Text Society, the Anglo-Saxon interlinear version of the Psalms of the Cotton MS., Vespasian A. 1. This Psalter was first published by the Surtees Society in 1843, under the editorship of the late Rev. Joseph Stevenson. Of this book, Mr. Sweet says: 'Mr. Stevenson's text abounds with such gross blunders, both in the English and Latin, as would lead an ordinary observer to suppose him to be entirely ignorant both of old English and Latin. He has also made many apparently deliberate alterations of the MS. text. Altogether, his edition is a disgrace to English scholarship.' The late Mr. Cockayne's opinion was equally strong on this point."

Mr. E. J. W. Gibb, of Lochwood by Glasgow, has in preparation a volume of "Ottoman poems, translated into English verse in the original forms." The object of this publication is to show that the Turks, so far from being illiterate, have an important poetical literature. It is certainly remarkable that so little should have been written in our country on the subject. The German book of Von Hammer, and the French one of Servan de Snigny, are not accessible to all, and the English student has little in his own language beyond the short essay by Mr. J. W. Redhouse, which contains paraphrases of about a dozen Turkish poems. This excellent essay can hardly be regarded as an adequate presentation of the subject, and so there should be ample room for Mr. Gibb's attempt to deal with it on a larger scale.

The privately printed literature of Manchester has received an addition in the shape of a volume of verse entitled "Fugitiva," containing poems and translations which evince a cultivated taste and a very considerable power of expression.

It is more than half a century since Mary Cowden Clarke began the compilation of her concordance to Shakspeare, and, after having helped students of the great dramatist for many years, a new and revised edition is appearing in parts for the benefit of a younger generation of his admirers. In the preface, the author gives an account of the origin of the work, which she began the 15th of July, 1829. In deference to Mr. Charles Knight, who published the first edition, she adopted the "short" spelling, but in the present reissue she has adopted the longer form of "Shakspeare."

At the last meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan, Captain J. M. James read a paper entitled "Descriptive Notes of the Rosaries, *Jiu-dzu*, as used by the different sects of Buddhists in Japan," and exhibited a number of rosaries and their mode of use. In the discussion which followed, Mr. Satow questioned whether the incomplete invocations used by the Buddhists could rightly be called prayers at all. Mr. N. Kanda gave a legendary account of the origin of the rosary. Dr. Faulds said there was no doubt that Buddhists did in some cases offer special petitions, as, for example, for the alleviation of suffering. Dr. Divers exhibited and described the form of rosary used by Romanists, and pointed out the general resemblance between it and those shown by Captain James. Except for the fact of its being blessed, it was essentially a mere counting instrument.

We learn from the Academy that Tennyson's "May Queen" has been translated into Basque and published in the *Revista Euskara*.

The exceedingly valuable series of works on Greek and Roman History and Archaeology published by the firm of Reimer, in Berlin, in which were included the

Histories of Greece and Rome, by Curtius and Mommsen respectively, is about to be issued in new editions in shilling parts.

The first instalment of the "Atlas of Attika," prepared by officers of the General-stab of the German army, with text by Curtius and Kaupert, published by the Imperial German Archaeological Institute, with assistance from the Prussian Ministry of Education, has been issued. This instalment consists of maps of Athens and the Piræus.

The distinguished Etruscan scholar, Carl Pauli, has published a volume of "Etruskische Studien."

Messrs. Velhagen and Klasing, of Leipzig, whose "History of German Literature," by Dr. König, illustrated by autographs and typographical fac-similes, justly met with an extraordinarily favorable reception, is to be succeeded by a "History of Germany," by Dr. L. Stacke, with exceedingly rich illustrations, on the same principle as the "History of Literature."

The keeper of the Government archives of the Prussian Province of Posen has published a history of Posen.

Professor Langen, of Bonn, publishes a "Geschichte der Römischen Kirche," from its commencement to the time of Pope Leo I.

Amongst the numerous signs of the attention the German Government is paying to affairs oceanic, is a work on the "Wasser-Strassen" of Northern Europe, which contains the results of the studies and journeys of inspection undertaken by the late Freiherr von Weber, as the commissioner for this purpose of the Prussian Ministry of Public Works. Two-thirds of this volume is occupied with the history, descriptions and plans of the English "Water-Roads."

The Archivarius of Basle publish a book of considerable interest to the students of bibliography in the "Rechnungsbuch" of the early printers and book-sellers of Basle—Froben and Episcopius, of the period 1557-1564.

Schopenhauer's "Grundprobleme der Ethik," which had long been out of print, is now issued in its third edition.

The Prussian Academy is about to publish a prize essay, by Dr. G. Zart, on the influence of English philosophy, subsequent to Bacon, on the German philosophy of the 18th century.

Dr. Reinhold Pallmann is about to publish an essay on "Der Deutsche Export-handel" in relation to the North American competition.

The *Athenæum* states that Messrs. Chapman and Hall have purchased from Mr. Froude and Sir Fitzjames Stephens the copyrights of "Thomas Carlyle."

Professor Schreyer, of Pforta, publishes an important contribution to the literature of Goethe's "Faust," under the title "Goethe's Faust erläutert und vertheidigt als einheitliche Dichtung." The tendency of recent criticism, as represented by Kuno Fischer and Julian Schmidt, has been to discover divergent elements in the great poem which occupied Goethe throughout his long life. This kind of historic criticism has been carried so far that the artistic, poetic and philosophic unity of the work have come to be denied. Professor Schreyer has written a complete commentary on the work, with the view of establishing its unity, and checking the excesses of historic criticism.

The firm of Otto Schulze, of Leipzig, will shortly publish the first part of a complete "Handbook," or "Encyclopædie," as the Germans also call such a work, on the subject of the Semitic nations and languages, by Dr. Fritz Hommel.

The sixth and concluding volume, containing the "Prolegomena," etc., of the "Codex Vaticanus," in fac-simile, which is being published in Rome, will be issued in a few days.

Dr. Richard Andree, the well-known geographer and ethnologist, has compiled a very useful little work, entitled "Zur Volkskunde der Juden." At a time when the Semitic question is so hotly and wildly discussed, it is doing a good service to put in a brief and fairly complete form the ethnology and statistics of it.

An atlas of the *Bodenkultur* (Cultivation of the Soil), of the German Empire, consisting of fifteen maps, together with text and statistics, is in preparation in the Imperial Statistical Office. The work will present the first accurate and authoritative account of the condition of agriculture in Germany.

In autumn, Messrs. Macmillan & Co. are to publish the first volume of a series of "Foreign School Classics," under the general direction of M. Eugène Fasnacht, who will himself undertake editions of Corneille's "Le Cid," Molière's "Les Femmes Savantes" and "Le Médecin Malgré Lui," Voltaire's "Charles XII.," selections from Uhland's "Ballads" and from German historians.

The Academy says that Mr. Bunyiu Nanjio, priest of the Monastery of Eastern Hongwanji, Japan, has prepared a catalogue of Japanese and Chinese books and MSS. recently added to the Bodleian Library, which will be published immediately by the Clarendon Press. These include (1) a collection made by Mr. A. Wylie in Japan, and bought by the Curators of the Bodleian Library in the present year, containing thirty-seven works in all; (2) five Chinese and two Japanese law books, presented to Mr. S. Amos by the Japanese Government; and (3) a collection of Japanese books and MSS., &c., presented to the Bodleian Library by Professor Max Müller.

On the question of copyright, the novelist, Miss Amelia A. Edwards, has addressed the following letter to *The Times*, London:

"SIR:—As one of the many novelists who are practically interested in this question of international copyright, I am anxious to suggest what, it seems to me, might be a possible way of meeting the difficulties of the present situation.

"Presuming (under correction,) that an English author may, if he pleases, sell copyright in the first instance to an American publisher, and that such copyright would be as valid in the United States as if the said author were an American citizen living on American soil, I would ask if there be any reason why he might not adopt the following course:

"Having written a novel, the MS. of which amounts, we may suppose, to 1,200 pp., could he not sell 600 pp. of that MS. to, let us say, Hurst and Blackett, of London, and 600 pp. to Harper, of New York, duly assigning to each firm the copyright of their own moiety? Having thus disposed of his original matter, he would next proceed to sell advance sheets of Hurst and Blackett's half to Harper in New York, and *vice versa*, so enabling both proprietors to start with a complete work at an appointed date.

"Pirates on both sides of the Atlantic would still be free, it is true, to reprint that part of the story which was published 'over the way'; but as such license would in each case apply to only one-half of the book, the stolen goods would, I conceive, be of as little value as the half of a bank-note abstracted in the post.

"I am Sir, yours, very truly, "AMELIA A. EDWARDS."

"Westbury-on-Tyrm, Gloucestershire, July 11."

Messrs. Lee & Shepard have published a little manual by Mr. Walter P. Manton, on "Insects: How to Catch and How to Prepare Them for the Cabinet."

The same firm has issued a handsome 112-page book on "Punctuation and other Typographical Matters," by Mr. Marshal T. Bigelow, corrector at the University Press.

The tenth volume of Harper & Brothers' "Cyclopædia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature" has just been issued. This completes the alphabet, but a supplement is yet to come, and is already in an advanced state of preparation. The illustrations are numerous and attractive, and are a great aid to the text.



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## SUMMER BOOKS.

*A NIHILIST PRINCESS.* (Translation.) Price, \$1.25.

A thrilling story which gives a deep insight into the present condition of the Russian Empire, and of the motives and aims of the Revolutionists. In the opinion of the *New York Tribune*, "the author is worthy to stand beside Turgeneff, and, like him, has thoroughly sounded the troubled waters of Russian society."

*MUSIC STUDY IN GERMANY.* By Miss AMY FAY. Price, \$1.25.

This popular little book has quite captivated the music-loving community, and a new and enlarged edition is now ready. Of it the *Boston Globe* says: "They are charming letters, both in style and matter, and the descriptions of Taussig, Kullak, Liszt and Deppe, with each of whom Miss Fay studied, are done with all the delicacy of a sketch by Meissonier."

*SHADOWS OF SHASTA.* By JOAQUIN MILLER. Price, \$1.00.

A strong, pathetic story of Indian wrongs, told in that peculiar style, so vigorous and fresh, with which the readers of Bret Harte and Joaquin Miller are familiar, and regarding which the *Interior* says: "The pronounced individuality of the writer is visible on every page, and the same charm of style that distinguishes his verse scatters gems of expression everywhere."

*CLUB ESSAYS.* By Prof. DAVID SWING. Price, \$1.50.

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